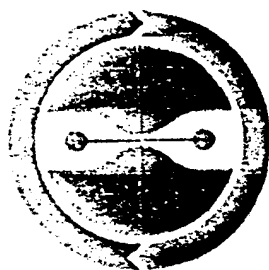


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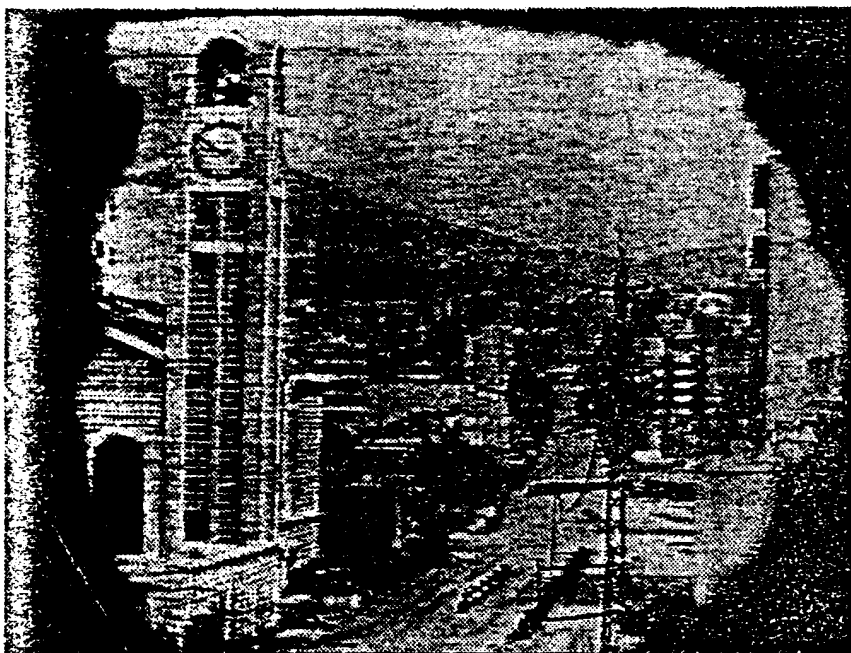
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A Background Briefing On Strategic Events

April 15, 1981

Lebanon under siege



Battle-scarred Beirut as seen through a shell hole in a building located on the "green line" dividing the eastern and western sections of the city. An abandoned Syrian checkpoint stands in the foreground.

The current round of fighting in Lebanon between Syrian troops and Lebanese Christian militia was a "coordinated and contrived" affair sparked by the presence of Secretary of State Alexander Haig in the Middle East.

The purpose, according to informed Mideast analysts, was to attract Haig's attention to the critical situation there and to detract as much as possible from any impact Haig might have on other issues in the region, especially strategic alliances with the United States against the Soviet Union.

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How U.S. policy shift affects the Middle East

On his recent Mideast tour, Secretary of State Alexander Haig made a positive impression on the governments of Egypt and Israel and alerted the leaders of Jordan and Saudi Arabia that the new administration is rethinking its policy for the entire region.

Authoritative sources told *International Report* that Egyptian President Anwar Sadat assured Haig that he would not object to the stationing of troops in the Sinai that could supplement a rapid deployment force if

Washington goes through the proper motions of first seeking a U.S. peacekeeping force and, failing that, some form of multinational force.

Haig made clear at each stop that the United States is not now committed to any of the options being mentioned as solutions to the deadlocked Camp David peace process. This marks a reversal from the Carter administration policy which had been shifting toward support of PLO involvement in the

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